

THE INCARNATION

DECEMBER 3, 2023

PS. 78:41-42

The word remember is used over 1200 times in the Bible. Forget not is used many times also (**PS. 103:2**). What does this have to do with the Incarnation? The Bible is a book of remembering. **DEUT. 4:9 NIV** Exhorts us to never forget. Jesus said to remember me (**LK. 22:19**). Christmas celebrates the entrance of the second person of deity into our world; an event to be understood, remembered, and taught to our children and grandchildren. It celebrates the Virgin Birth, Incarnation, or hypostatic union of deity and humanity in the person Jesus Christ. Jesus–humanity, Christ- Deity. Our focus this month is on the Incarnation of our Lord. At the very heart of our faith is the person and work of Jesus Christ. If the Word never became flesh in order to die in our place, there would be no salvation, and no hope for the world. We all would perish in our sins!

The Word Became Flesh (JOHN 1:1-4, 14).

The Word (God) became flesh. The creator, master designer, and sustainer of every existing thing took on flesh in order to walk on and live in the world He created (**PHIL. 2:5-8 NLT, MSG**). Why make such a radical move? **HEB. 2:14-15 NLT** answers the question. Christmas celebrates the greatest gift ever given (**2 COR. 9:15 NLT**). Too wonderful for words says it all. “No language can praise enough” **MSG**.

Man’s Need (GEN. 2:15-17)

“Dying thou shalt die” it says in my Bible margin. Dying spiritually, you will die physically and eternally. In the Fall, man died spiritually and was dead spiritually while being alive physically (**EPH. 2:1-3, 1 TIM. 5:6**). Man’s spirit was separated from God and took on the nature of Satan and death (**JOHN 8:44**). His need is three-fold: to pass from death to life (**JOHN 5:24**); righteousness (**2 COR. 5:21**); and a mediator (**1 TIM. 2:5 NLT**). The dilemma: Man is spiritually dead, his righteousness is as filthy rags (**IS. 64:6 NLT**); he can’t approach God on his own. He needs a mediator who is righteous and can approach God on his behalf (**ROM. 3:9-10 NLT**).

The Qualifications

No Jew or Gentile qualifies to be man’s mediator because every man Jew or Gentile, is spiritually dead and unrighteous. Remember **REV. 5:1-10**? No man, Jew or Gentile could satisfy the claims of justice held against man and redeem him from his fallen state – except Jesus!

- He must be a man (**1 TIM. 2:5**).

- He must be righteous (**IS. 53:11 NLT**).
- He must overcome and understand temptation (**HEB. 4:14-16 MSG**).
- He must be free from Satan's rule and authority (**JOHN 14:29-31 MSG**).

The Incarnation Prophecies (GEN. 3:15)

This first prophecy contains four declarations.

- There will be enmity between Satan and women.
- There will be enmity between the seed of Satan and the woman's seed.
- The seed of the woman, not man.
- He will bruise Satan's head, and Satan will persecute His church.

IS. 7:14 A virgin shall conceive.

Conclusion: To be continued.